

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DODE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 OIC-04 EB-11

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC MAY 14: REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE AUSTRIAN

GOVERNMENT FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

REF: A) USNATO 1972; B) STATE 35814; C) USNATO 2531 (NOTAL)

D) STATE 97586 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NAC ON MAY 14 RETURNED TO QUESTION OF APPORTIONMENT OF LLIES' SHARE OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY AUSTRIANS FOR MBFR. ITALY REITERATED SUPPORT OF VIENNA COMMON FACILITIES FORMULA FOR THIS PURPOSE, WHILE FRG, UK AND U.S. SUPPORTED HELSINKI FORMULA. BELGIUM STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE ITALIAN POSITION, STATING THE THREE LARGE COUNTRIES HAD TAKEN NO ACCOUNT OF OPPOSTION OF ALL OTHERS OR OF THE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS RAISED BY ITALY. THIS ISSUE WILL BE PLACED ON ANOTHER NAC AGENDA AT AN EARLY DATE. END SUMMARY

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1. CATALANO (ITALY) SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO HIS STATEMENT AT APRIL 10 NAC IN SUPPORT OF APPROTIONMENT OF ALLIES' SHARE OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY AUSTRIANS FOR MBFR ACCORDING TO VIENNA COMMON FACILITIES FORMULA (REF A). HE SAID QUESTION NOW HAS SOME URGENCY

SINCE ITALY HAS RECEIVED TWO BILLS FROM AUSTRIANS ON HELSINKI FORMULA, "NOT ON A BASIS WE THINK WE SHOULD HAVE TO PAY."

2. KRAPF (GERMANY) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES RECENTLY EXAMINED FRG POSITION AND DECIDED THAT THE SEPTEMBER 18 SPC DECISION IN FAVOR OF HELSINKI FORMULA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. SPC'S DECISION WAS SOUND, SINCE ALL HAD ACCEPTED HELSINKI FORMULA FOR CSCE, AND MBFR LIKE CSCE IS RELATED TO DETENTE. THE FACT THAT ITALY IS AN INDIRECT PARTICIPANT IN MBFR IS IRRELEVANT SINCE ITALY IS USING SAME VIENNA NEGOTIATING FACILITIES AS DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. IN ADDITION, ALLIES AGREED TO VIENNA COST SHARING FORMULA FOR NATO COMMON FACILITY ON CONDITION THIS NOT BE CONSIDERED A PRECEDENT.

3. PECK (UK) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH THE FRG, AND THE UK VIEW WOULD NOT CHANGE. AUSTRIANS WERE NOW BILLING NATO COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO HELSINKI FORMULA. UK WILLING TO DISCUSS MATTER IN AHG, BUT UK IS PREPARED TO PAY THE AUSTRIANS ACCORDING TO HELSINKI FORMULA, EVEN IF OTHER ALLIES DO NOT DO SO. SYG LUNS INTERJECTED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY.

4. RUMSFELD STATED CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE HELSINKI FORMULA FOR APPORTIONMENT OF ALLIES' SHARE OF CONFERENCE COSTS, PER REFTEL B.

5. CATALANO AGAIN STRESSED THE ITALIAN POSITION THAT ITALY HAD AGREED TO THE HELSINKI FORMULA FOR THE DIVISION OF CONFERENCE COSTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, BUT NOT FOR APPORTIONMENT OF ALLIES' SHARE OF CONFERENCE COSTS, WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER DECISION. REFERRING TO KRAPF'S STATEMENT, HE SAID CSCE AND MBFR WERE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CONFERENCES. THE FIRST WAS NOT BLOC-TO-BLOC AND THE SECOND WAS. HE ADDED THAT THE ALLIES HAD AGREED THAT VIENNA COST SHARING FORMULA SHOULD NOT SERVE AS PRECEDENT BECAUSE U.S. SHARE WAS ABOUT 20 PERCENT, BUT UNDER HELSINKI FORMULA, U.S. SHARE WAS DOWN AROUND 16 PERCENT. HE REGRETTED NAC HAD NOT RESOLVED THE ISSUE.

6. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) STRONGLY SUPPORTED
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ITALIAN POSITION. DEVELOPING THE VIEW HE EXPRESSED AT APRIL 10 NAC, HE STATED THAT THE POSITION OF THE THREE LARGE COUNTRIES TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF OPPOSITION BY ALL OTHERS, OR OF THE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS RAISED BY ITALY AT APRIL 10 NAC. THE THREE BIG COUNTRIES HAVE THUS MADE AN APOLITICAL DECISION, RESTING ON TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS. THE THREE ARE ENTITLED TO BE WRONG, BUT NOT TO DRAG THE REST OF NATO ALONG. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO HAVE TRIED TO EXERT FRIENDLY PRESSURE ON THE THREE, BUT THIS HAS NOT WORKED. HE ASKED WHAT HAPPENS NOW, IS THIS TO BE A TRIAL OF STRENGTH BETWEEN US? HE SUGGESTED THAT SYG LUNS INTERVENE WITH THE FRG, UK AND U.S.

7. LUNS SAID THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE PLACED ON ANOTHER NAC AGENDA AT AN EARLY DATE.

RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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